

## World record gathering of people with same name

31st October, 2022



A group of 178 men all sharing the name Tanaka Hirokazu convened in Tokyo on Saturday to break the Guinness World Record for the largest gathering of people with the same first and last name. The successful record

attempt was organized by the Tanaka Hirokazu association. This group was established by a guy called Tanaka Hirokazu (surprise, surprise) in 1994. Mr Tanaka's inspiration came from seeing a namesake of his drafted into a professional Japanese baseball team. Ex-baseball player Tanaka Hirokazu was also part of Saturday's record meeting. The 178 new record holders span the generations, with the youngest being three years old, and the eldest being an octogenarian.

Association leader Tanaka Hirokazu, 53, was elated at breaking the world record. His association had tried twice before, in 2011 and 2017, to break the record. These attempts were thwarted largely because of the association's insistence on all participants having to have the same Chinese characters (kanji) in their name. Saturday's meeting had a more lenient criterion. The association deemed that anyone with the name Hirokazu Tanaka was eligible, regardless of the kanji used to spell their name. Mr Tanaka reflected on his world-beating achievement. He told reporters: "I never expected we would achieve such a ridiculous record." He added that the 178 Tanakas had "set an example of silliness".

Sources: [japantimes.co.jp](http://japantimes.co.jp) / [mainichi.jp](http://mainichi.jp) / [straitstimes.com](http://straitstimes.com)

## Writing

No two people should ever have the same name. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

group / men / Tokyo / world record / successful / inspiration / baseball / generation / leader / elated / association / Chinese characters / achievement / reporter / silliness

## True / False

- 1) A group of women who all had the same name broke a world record. T / F
- 2) The record attempt was organized by the John Smith Association. T / F
- 3) A former professional baseball player helped to break the record. T / F
- 4) The oldest person in the group was in his/her eighties. T / F
- 5) This was the third time for the group to attempt to break the record. T / F
- 6) This attempt required participants to have the same Chinese characters. T / F
- 7) The person who organized the attempt knew it would be broken. T / F
- 8) The person called the record an example of silliness. T / F

## Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. <b>convened</b>    | a. foiled        |
| 2. <b>gathering</b>   | b. set up        |
| 3. <b>attempt</b>     | c. allowed       |
| 4. <b>established</b> | d. assembly      |
| 5. <b>span</b>        | e. thrilled      |
| 6. <b>elated</b>      | f. laughable     |
| 7. <b>thwarted</b>    | g. effort        |
| 8. <b>eligible</b>    | h. thought about |
| 9. <b>reflected</b>   | i. met           |
| 10. <b>ridiculous</b> | j. cross         |

## Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of your name?
- b) What do you think of this record?
- c) What do you think of common surnames in your country?
- d) Would you like to change your name?
- e) Do you have any namesakes?
- f) Should men or women change their surname after marriage?
- g) What do you think of nicknames?
- h) Should we write our surname or given name first?

## Phrase Match

- |   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. the largest gathering                    | a. at breaking the world record |
| 2. This group was established               | b. a namesake of his            |
| 3. Mr Tanaka's inspiration came from seeing | c. of people                    |
| 4. The 178 new record holders span          | d. Chinese characters           |
| 5. the eldest being                         | e. world-beating achievement    |
| 6. Tanaka Hirokazu, 53, was elated          | f. the generations              |
| 7. These attempts were                      | g. by a guy called Tanaka       |
| 8. having to have the same                  | h. to spell their name          |
| 9. regardless of the kanji used             | i. an octogenarian              |
| 10. Tanaka reflected on his                 | j. thwarted                     |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What world record would you like to break?
- How do you feel when you see your surname written down?
- What do you think of middle names?
- What do you think of double-barrelled (hyphenated) surnames?
- Do you prefer your surname or given name?
- Do you think the record is 'an example of silliness'?
- What questions would you like to ask one of the Tanaka Hirokazus?

## Spelling

- nneveodc in Tokyo on Saturday
- the Tanaka Hirokazu osnasiatico
- inspiration came from seeing a eksmaaen
- edtfard into a professional Japanese baseball team
- span the tngensiaero
- the eldest being an ornotcaeaing
- Tanaka Hirokazu, 53, was daleet
- These attempts were redttawh
- because of the association's iistesennc
- a more einltne criterion
- the name Hirokazu Tanaka was liigblee
- achieve such a uiuioldcsr record

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. i	2. d	3. g	4. b	5. j
6. e	7. a	8. c	9. h	10. f

## Role Play

### Role A – An Ancestor

You think it is best to call a newborn baby after an ancestor. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their names. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): a movie star, a flower or a religious figure.

### Role B – A Movie Star

You think it is best to call a newborn baby after a movie star. Tell them what is wrong with their names. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): an ancestor, a flower or a religious figure.

### Role C – A Flower

You think it is best to call a newborn baby after a flower. Tell them what is wrong with their names. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): a movie star, an ancestor or a religious figure.

### Role D – A Religious Figure

You think it is best to call a newborn baby after a religious figure. Tell them what is wrong with their names. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): a movie star, a flower or an ancestor.

## Speaking – Named After...

Rank these with your partner. Put the best things to be named after at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                    |                         |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| • An ancestor      | • A month               |
| • A movie star     | • An inspirational noun |
| • A flower         | • A religious figure    |
| • A celestial body | • A cartoon character   |

### Answers – True False

1 F	2 F	3 T	4 T	5 T	6 F	7 F	8 T
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.